



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

October 15, 2010

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General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners,

Huge congratulations to Meridian City Council for unanimously passing Kassy's Law to ban texting while driving in Meridian! Meridian joins Twin Falls in banning texting while driving. These city councils are demonstrating their commitment to safety for their citizens by moving forward on this issue.

Here's an article on this from Fastlane, the official blog of the U. S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, recognizing the progress made on this issue here in Meridian.

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/10/meridian-idaho-city-council-unanimously-passes-kassys-law.html>

We are busily preparing for the Idaho Transportation Department Board – Idaho Traffic Safety Commission Joint Safety Workshop on October 20 beginning at 1:00 at the Doubletree Riverside, Tamarack Room. Pam Holt, a very popular presenter at our Highway Safety Summit, will be presenting once again. FHWA Associate Administrator Joe Toole will also be presenting. This is an open meeting. It should be and excellent opportunity to build commitment to reducing preventable traffic deaths, serious injuries and economic losses.

Thanks for all you are doing to save lives and keep families whole by promoting the selection of smart driving choices by one and all.

Mary

Earning Equipment Through the Mobilization Incentive Program

If your agency is planning to earn equipment funds this year, it is essential that you tell us what you are working towards and the cost of the equipment. We all want to make sure that everything goes smoothly this year and a big element to that process is the equipment incentive program.

Here is a link to the [Anticipated Equipment Purchase](#) form with the list of approved equipment. If you have not sent one in **This request must be returned to our office by December 17.**

If you plan to purchase equipment that is not listed on the form, you must get prior authorization from us in order to fund the purchase. Equipment that has not been approved will be denied, and your agency will be responsible for the cost. This has happened to a couple of agencies. We really want to avoid this at all costs.

Also, any individual item with a cost, including shipping fees and tax of **\$5,000** or more, must have prior approval from the regional NHTSA office. For those purchases submit a request to our office, with justification for the purchase. We will forward it the region for approval.

One question we often receive, can the equipment be purchased anytime during the year? **We strongly advise you not to make a purchase until your agency has earned the funds needed.** Our funding from NHTSA for each year is not received all at once, and this fiscal year we may receive less federal funding than we expect. This will have a great impact on the amount we are able to allocate to all participating agencies.

Impaired Driving



New Edition of Visual Detection of DWI Motorists

The NHTSA publication, Visual Detection of DWI Motorists, is one of the most popular documents related to impaired driving that NHTSA has ever produced. It describes the visual cues that can help law enforcement officers detect impaired drivers and it includes a "DWI Detection Guide" on a plastic card that can be mounted on the visor of an officer's vehicle. This publication has recently been updated and republished. It can be requested from the agency by referencing Number DOT HS 808 677. It is also available at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/alcchol/dwi/dwihtml/>.